

auction it off to the private sector without diminishing our responsibilities in Government. In other words, it will be an auction process. Taxpayers will not only benefit because broadband has been expanded, the taxpayers will benefit because we're not going to give the spectrum away. We'll let them pay.

And so these are some of the policies that will help us achieve the goal. What I'm telling you is, there's a role for us here in Washington to help the entrepreneurs and innovators of the country succeed and thereby help make the quality of the life of our fellow citizens the best it can possibly be.

I am here at the Commerce Department because a lot of the work to make sure the entrepreneurial spirit is strong is done here. And I'm here to thank those of you who work here for your hard work. I appreciate what you're doing. Keep doing it. We have a responsibility to fulfill our missions and our goals on behalf of the taxpayers of this country.

There is no question in my mind, with the right policy and right incentives, that

we will be the leader. Instead of being the 10th per capita in broadband use, we'll be the first. You know, we're the fastest growing major industrialized nation in the world today, and that's great. We want to be the fastest growing major industrialized nation in the world tomorrow and the next decade and the next decade. And one of the best ways we can do so is to always stay on the leading edge of technological change, and here are some practical ways—by working with the Congress, working with our regulators, working with our Commerce Department—that we can do so.

Listen, thanks for your work. May God bless you all, and may God continue to bless our country.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:08 p.m. in the main lobby at the U.S. Department of Commerce. In his remarks, he referred to Theodore W. Kassing, General Counsel, Department of Commerce, and nominee to be Deputy Secretary of Commerce; and Dr. Craig Sable, Children's National Medical Center.

Message to the Congress on Continuation of the National Emergency With Respect to the Western Balkans

June 24, 2004

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent the enclosed notice, stating that the Western Balkans emergency is to continue in effect beyond June 26, 2004, to the *Federal Register* for publi-

cation. The most recent notice continuing this emergency was published in the *Federal Register* on June 24, 2003, 68 *Fed. Reg.* 37389.

The crisis constituted by the actions of persons engaged in, or assisting, sponsoring, or supporting, (i) extremist violence in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and elsewhere in the Western Balkans region, or (ii) acts obstructing implementation of the Dayton Accords in Bosnia or United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 of June 10, 1999, in Kosovo, that led to the declaration of a national emergency on

June 26, 2001, has not been resolved. Subsequent to the declaration of the national emergency, acts obstructing implementation of the Ohrid Framework Agreement of 2001 in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, have also become a concern. All of these actions are hostile to U.S. interests and pose a continuing unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. For these reasons, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national

emergency declared with respect to the Western Balkans and maintain in force the comprehensive sanctions to respond to this threat.

GEORGE W. BUSH

The White House,
June 24, 2004.

NOTE: The notice is listed in Appendix D at the end of this volume.

Interview With Radio and Television Ireland *June 24, 2004*

Irish Public Opinion

Q. Mr. President, you're going to arrive in Ireland in about 24 hours' time, and no doubt you will be welcomed by our political leaders. Unfortunately, the majority of our public do not welcome your visit because they're angry over Iraq; they're angry over Abu Ghraib. Are you bothered by what Irish people think?

The President. Listen, I hope the Irish people understand the great values of our country. And if they think that a few soldiers represents the entirety of America, they don't really understand America then.

There have been great ties between Ireland and America, and we've got a lot of Irish Americans here that are very proud of their heritage and their country. But you know, they must not understand if they're angry over Abu Ghraib—if they say, "This is what America represents," they don't understand our country, because we don't represent that. We are a compassionate country. We're a strong country, and we'll defend ourselves, but we help people. And we've helped the Irish, and we'll continue to do so. We've got a good relationship with Ireland.

Iraq/Terrorism

Q. And they're angry over Iraq as well and particularly the continuing death toll there.

The President. Well, I can understand that. People don't like war. But what they should be angry about is the fact that there was a brutal dictator there that had destroyed lives and put them in mass graves and had torture rooms. Listen, I wish they could have seen the seven men that came to see me in the Oval Office. They had their right hands cut off by Saddam Hussein because the currency had devalued when he was the leader. And guess what happened? An American saw the fact that they had had their hands cut off and crosses or Xs carved in their forehead, and he flew them to America. And they came to my office with a new hand, grateful for the generosity of America and with Saddam Hussein's brutality in their mind.

Look, Saddam Hussein had used weapons of mass destruction against his own people, against the neighborhood. He was a brutal dictator who posed a threat—such a threat that the United Nations voted unanimously to say, "Mr. Saddam Hussein"——